

E 380
.D384
Copy 1



Democratic
Party of New York State
A Political Speech



Class E 380

Book D 354

THE /

STRIKING SIMILITUDE

BETWEEN

THE REIGN OF TERROR,

OF THE ELDER ADAMS,

AND

THE REIGN OF CORRUPTION,

OF THE YOUNGER ADAMS.

AN ADDRESS ADOPTED BY THE ALBANY REPUBLICAN COUNTY
CONVENTION:

TOGETHER WITH RESOLUTIONS EXPRESSING THEIR SENTIMENTS ON THE PRE-
SIDENTIAL QUESTION, AND NOMINATING THE HON. JOHN TAYLER FOR
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR.

Democratic Party, New York (State) Albany Co.

ALBANY:

Printed for the Albany Argus,

BY D. M'GLASHAN.

.....

1828.

E 380
-D384

250242
16

21

RESOLUTIONS OF THE ALBANY COUNTY REPUBLICAN CONVENTION.

The Committee appointed for that purpose, reported the following Resolutions and Address, which were unanimously approved of:

Resolved, That it is the privilege and the great duty of republican citizens, to watch the movements and scrutinize the conduct of their rulers, and to detect the designs and arrest the encroachments of power; and that in the exercise of this imperative duty, the republicans of this convention ask a candid people to reflect upon the misrule of those whom, not *their* will, but sinister arrangements, have invested with the functions of authority.

Resolved, That we oppose the re-election of John Quincy Adams—

Because we believe him to be now, as in all his early hostility to Jefferson and the democracy, imbued with the principles and wedded to the distinctions of the aristocracy—

Because he came to the democratic party, with tales of treason against his former political associates, but with unchanged principles and with personal views—

Because, his ends being selfish, he was willing to prey upon any party, that chanced to be predominant—

Because, when his desire of office had been gratified to a most liberal extent, when he was in the act of receiving the enormous reward of 62,644 dollars for two years' personal services, when he was literally putting into his pockets, with voracious avidity, the money of a people, pressed down by the weight of their public calamities and the requirements of an extended and suffering frontier, when the demands upon the treasury threw upon the people great and severe but unavoidable burdens, when patriot hands were lifted up in the common defence and patriot hearts placed their fortunes and their lives between the invader and the common soil, he complained that our government was "feeble and penurious" because still larger "contingencies" were not lavished upon him—

Because, in that eventful period, when his patriot competitor devoted his whole energies to his country, and, instead of accusing his government of feebleness and penury and holding out the disgraceful language of fear and submission, raising the banner of his country, and inviting to its defence, by the most elevated examples of constancy, devotion and courage, the brave volunteers and militia of the west, freely pledging his private fortune for a people whom he loved, and for hardships that were assailed, showing himself at every point of danger, exciting all to the noble discharge of their duty, animating them by his presence and relieving them by his sacrifices, passing days of fatigue and sleepless nights in preparing for the gallant resistance which the invader afterwards met with at his hands and the hands of his undaunted compatriots, and appearing in that hour of peril in the midst of the conflict, holding to all the in-

spired and encouraging language, "*Remember that our watch-word is victory or death: our country must and shall be defended: we will enjoy our liberty or perish in the last ditch*,"—John Quincy Adams predicted our overthrow, without raising a finger to avert it, and declared that it could not be expected that "we should resist the mass of force which the gigantic power of Britain had collected to crush us at a blow!"—

Because he has betrayed the republicans, into whose camp he came as a deserter, and has repaid their kindness and liberality by attempts to subvert their party and to efface its landmarks—

Because he has turned back and sought the aid of those men and of that party whom he accused of treasonable designs, thus establishing either the insincerity of his declarations or his willingness to co-operate with traitors to his country—

Because he came into power under pledges to such leaders of that party as could be drawn into the compact—

Because his associations since his accession have been of that complexion—and because, bred amongst the aristocracy and educated in foreign courts, his habits and principles are not congenial with the spirit of our institutions and the notions of a democratic people.

Resolved, That we cannot yield our support to the present administration of the general government—because it was the result of a corrupt arrangement, by which extremes were made to meet and personal designs were advanced by alliances odious in themselves, demoralizing in their tendency, and subversive of the rights of the people—and because in its prodigal expenditures, its multiplication of agents, its waste of the public treasure, its misapplication of the contingent funds, its numerous outlays, its illegal and profuse reward of favorites, its encroachments upon the rights of the states, its disregard of the rights and character of the nation, its censure of ambassadors and captains who have resisted foreign aggression, its unmanly submission to injurious inflictions upon our commerce and upon the persons of American seamen, its loss of a valuable colonial trade, its neglect of our relations with foreign courts, its travelling electioneering, its ebony and topaz illustrations, its war, pestilence and famine invocations, and its institution of the calumnious attacks upon patriot cities—it has forfeited the confidence, and ought to receive the opposition, of a people, jealous of their rights, careful of their honour, tenacious of the reputation of their defenders, and regarding national interests and welfare.

Resolved, That we approve of the nomination of ANDREW JACKSON, of Tennessee, republican candidate for president; and the

him, in the language of the venerated Jefferson, a citizen "who has filled the measure of his country's glory;" who "has more of the Roman in him than any man now living;" and whom Providence seems to have fitted, in a peculiar manner, by the magnitude of his services, his sound principles, his practical republicanism, and his unostentatious life, to stay the march of corruption and prodigality, and to bring back the government to the purity and simplicity of the democratic days of the republic.

Resolved, That our confidence in the accomplishment of these great and salutary ends certainly is not diminished, by the circumstance that he will come to his high office *directly from the people*, unaided by the "line of safe precedents," by cabinet intrigues, or the abuse of the contingent funds.

Resolved, That we approve of the nomination of JOHN C. CALHOUN, for the office of vice president, as a citizen in whom superior talent and experience eminently qualify for that station, and whose efficient services in the cause of his country constitute strong claims upon the support of the people.

Resolved, That in our estimation, calumny and detraction are not the weapons of a good cause, or the means of attaining right ends; and that we can regard the unexampled abuse of the Farmer of Tennessee, the foul charges brought against him by men in high places, the invasion of his domestic relations, and the assaults upon the reputation of the wife of his bosom, as the acts of men, grown desperate under the censures of the people, and in view of the departure of power, corruptly acquired and madly exercised.

Resolved, That the recent nomination, by a federal convention favorable to the general administration, of a high judicial officer of that administration

as a candidate for governor of this state, is well calculated, unless resisted by the people, to fill the minds of all who love their country, with just alarm for the perpetuity of our institutions. If the general government can send its cabinet officers into the several states, to preside over them, and exercise in them the executive, judicial or legislative authority—if the states must look to the national administration for their local officers—they have become little else than colonial dependencies of their rulers at Washington; their boasted sovereignty is no more than a name; and we may look, at no distant day, for the subversion of the state governments, and for the erection on their ruins, of that splendid piece of royal mimicry, so ardently desired by the elder Adams,—a consolidated government and a hereditary chief magistrate.

Resolved, That in the judgment of this convention, a nomination of a high judicial functionary of the national government, to a local office under the state government, is an infraction of the spirit of our constitution, which carefully excludes our own judicial officers from other civil appointments; and that the recent attempt to encroach upon our state rights and constitutional enactments—to render the highest judicial tribunal of the country subservient to the ends of party—to send, at the beck of the Cabinet, the ministers of the national courts into the arena of our local politics—to weaken the confidence of the people of the union in the decisions of the only umpire between the states, which, unpolluted and unimpaired, constitutes one of the strongest links in the chain of our union, and which more than any other should be preserved free from party collision and bias—is anti-republican and unconstitutional, and will be resisted at the ballot-boxes by a people, proud of their native state, and watchful of every design upon its liberties.

ADDRESS

Unanimously adopted by the Albany Republican Convention, held at Bethlehem on the 31st July, 1828, at which Resolutions were also adopted, concurring in the nomination of ANDREW JACKSON and JOHN C. CALHOUN, and offering JOHN TAYLER as the Republican Candidate for Presidential Elector for this district.

To the Republicans of the County of Albany:

Along with the nomination of a candidate for an elector of this district, we have thought it proper to submit to you some remarks on the presidential election.

The contest in its commencement appeared to indicate, and in its progress has, in fact, assumed, a striking similarity to that of 1800. There can be, we think, but little doubt in the minds of those who have attentively observed the passing events, that the men who now wield the destiny of this great republic, entertain sentiments as hostile to the rights of the people, as those manifested by our rulers in 1793. The administration of the *Son* has improved upon the wrong principles of the *Father*.

In Adams' administration was brought in by the *will* of the people; it soon forfeited their confidence by pursuing measures incompatible with popular rights, attempted to sustain itself by the exercise of power delegated by the constitution, and thereby just-

ly acquired for itself the appellation of "THE REIGN OF TERROR." The administration of John Q. Adams was brought in, as multiplying proofs have abundantly established, by intrigue and bargain, in violation of the public will—it is seeking to perpetuate itself in defiance of this will, not only by the assumption of unconstitutional powers, but by an unauthorised and profligate expenditure of the public treasure, and it has thereby acquired for itself the justly merited designation of "THE REIGN OF CORRUPTION."

Inasmuch as public liberty has oftener been swept away by corruption, than it has been cloven down by the violence of usurped power, the reign of the *younger Adams* is more dangerous to our free institutions than was that of *his father*, and the efforts of the people to put an end to it should emulate the deeds of the patriots of '76. To prove to the satisfaction of those who are not blinded by prejudice to the most obvious

distinctions, that the present contest is identical in character to that which terminated the reign of the *elder Adams*, and that it is the struggle of the People against the Aristocracy, we will briefly refer you to the known principles of the men who have arrayed themselves in each contest on the side of power, and the measures they adopted for its perpetuation.

The defamatory assaults upon the republican candidates—upon Jefferson in 1800, and upon Jackson now,—have characters of strong resemblance. They are found on strict examination to be devoid of truth and full of malignity. In the case of Jefferson, the sanctuary of private life was rudely violated, and disgusting immorality imputed to a man of the most blameless domestic conduct. Gen. Jackson has shared a fate every way similar. Jefferson was represented to be a visionary philosopher, destitute of that practical good sense which is indispensably necessary for a chief magistrate. Jackson is said to be so illiterate as to make it presumption in the people to urge his claims to that high station, which in the opinion of the aristocrats of the present day, is an honor alone “*appropriate and peculiar to polished intellect.*” Jefferson was reviled as the friend and disciple of the bloody regicides of France, and his elevation, as it was predicted, boded for this country all the violence, the factious and cruelties of the French revolution. General Jackson is shamefully reviled as a traitor who lent his countenance to a plot for the dismemberment of the Union. Mr. Jefferson was stigmatised as an infidel, under whose administration the moral elements of society would be dissolved, religion acidified, our bibles burned, and our temples of worship demolished. General Jackson is characterised as a “*military chieftain,*” whose administration will inflict upon our country the direst calamities—calamities instead of which Mr. Clay has irreverently implored the God of mercy to substitute WAR, PESTILENCE and FAMINE.

Every prediction of the enemies of Mr. Jefferson was falsified. His administration was as fortunate and happy as any that this country was ever blessed with. It sanctioned few or no deviations in its measures from the theoretic principles of our government, and it is now pointed to as a model for imitation. The slanders against Gen. Jackson are not fewer in number, nor less false and malignant in character, than those with which Mr. Jefferson was assailed; and we trust his administration will also falsify the forebodings of mischief—it will be happy for the people, and long looked back to, like that of Jefferson, as a proper model for imitation. The aspersions upon the character of general Jackson have been so many and so diversified, that the limits of an address do not allow of a particular notice of them. We believe, however, that there is no charge without its answer; refutation has closely followed the footsteps of the accusing spirit of falsehood and demolished all its nefarious works.

Those who still think general Jackson a bad man, must have wilfully turned away from a flood of light which his ample vindication has sent abroad. We shall not here enlarge upon what has been said in derogation of the republican candidate, but shall only recommend to those who are willing to be informed and still doubt of his qualifications, to peruse the able and ample refutations, by which every accusation against him has been met, and to reflect upon the following deliberate opinions of *Jefferson, Madison and Monroe*—great patriots and pure republicans—of *John Q. Adams* and *Henry Clay*—bitter opponents, for whom or by whom all the engines of slander have been put in motion against him.

“*General Jackson is a clear-headed, strong-minded man, and has more of the Roman in him than any man now living.*” THOMAS JEFFERSON.

“The recollection of the public relations in which I stood to general Jackson, while President, and the proofs given to him of the high estimation in which he was held by me, &c.”

“In ANDREW JACKSON, commander-in-chief of the division of the south, the president found a man fit for any emergency—a STATESMAN, cool and dispassionate,

—a SOLDIER, terrible in battle and mild in victory,—a PATRIOT, whose bosom swelled with the love of his country:—in fine, a man, whose like we shall scarce look upon again.” JAMES MONROE.

“Who (Jackson) has shed so much lustre on his country, whose renown constitutes so great a portion of its moral property, I never had, I never can have, any other feelings than those of the most profound respect, and of the utmost kindness.” HENRY CLAY.

“Whose (General Jackson’s) services to the nation entitle him to their highest reward, and whose whole career has been signalized by the purest intentions and the most elevated purposes.” JOHN Q. ADAMS.

We cannot but believe that such testimony as this of his eminent services and exalted worth, coming, as it does, from sages the best qualified to judge, and from opponents the most willing to depreciate, will be with the people, as it ought to be, a shield of protection against the envenomed shafts of slander.

We believe that there is no man at this day, who will not acknowledge, if he is not deluded, or does not wish to delude others, that there is an essential difference in principle, between those who seek the election of general Jackson, and those who are devoted to the Coalition. The contest between them is not merely for power—it has higher and worthier objects—it is for principles. We are solemnly impressed with the conviction that *John Q. Adams* has covertly introduced into his administration the objectionable principles of that of his father; and has thereby secured the approbation and the active support of all those who are inclined to aristocracy. An allusion to the distinctive measures of the two administrations, will substantiate this assertion.

The assumption of power by construction has been as great and alarming by the *Son* as it was by the *Father*. The right to make this assumption has been more boldly avowed, and the power when usurped has been more objectionably exercised, by the rulers of the present day, than by those of ‘98.

The rights of the state governments were never more in danger than at this time, of being swallowed up by voracious construction, and their consequence sunk in the vortex of consolidation. The assertion of “*the constitutional competence of the executive*” to send ambassadors, without authority from the national legislature and without the advice of the senate, to a congress of independent nations, a sort of holy alliance, and the avowal by the president of a rule of official conduct higher than the constitution, from which, according to the true theory of republican government, all the power of the chief magistrate is derived, are principles more alarming than any that were ever advanced by the *elder Adams*.

The ridiculous device of the *black cockade*, is rivalled in ridiculousness by the grave epistle of *John Q. Adams* upon *etiquette*, and his formal regulations for the costumes of ambassadors.

Aspirants to illegal power, though they aim at the same object, seldom tread precisely in the footsteps of their unsuccessful predecessors. *Cæsar* did not imitate *Catiline* in his attempt upon the liberties of the Roman people; but the younger *Adams*, as if he intended there should be no excuse for mistaking the character of his administration, has pursued, in servile imitation of his *Father*, the same objects, and by nearly the same means.

The press in 1798 was the object of dread and attack. The free expression of public sentiment through the medium of republican journals was attempted to be controlled or overruled by the sedition law. The present administration have endeavoured to produce a similar result without the aid of such a law, by the use and abuse of patronage:—to intimidate by the menace of withdrawing it—to purchase by its bestowment. In pursuance of this policy, we have seen the leading republican journals in Kentucky, New-Hampshire and Maine, and others in various other parts of the United States,—all of them assiduous in the dissemination of republican doctrines as inculcated by Jefferson,—

ped of official patronage, for the mere want of personal subservience to the *secretary of state*.

In the National Intelligencer we have seen the operation of cause and effect—an immense patronage retained, and a sudden change of opinion, from hostility to abject devotion to those who had the power to take away that patronage.

John H. Pleasants, the editor of a conspicuous journal in Virginia, the extravagant eulogist of the administration, and the furious reviler of Gen. Jackson, has received \$1940 as the bearer of despatches to Rio Janeiro in Buenos Ayres, which he never delivered, but committed them to the captain of a merchant ship, and recreated himself at the public expense in a tour in England.

The brother of the conductor of the leading administration paper in Pennsylvania, enjoys a lucrative appointment as one of our diplomatic agents.

Jonathan Elliott, a printer of a newspaper in Washington, devoted to the administration, from whose press has issued the scandalous attacks upon Gen. Jackson, that have been distributed in great profusion through the union, under the frank of *honourable* members of congress, received \$1000, misapplied from the contingent fund "for foreign intercourse," for one hundred copies of a book entitled "diplomatic code,"—an extravagant allowance to a convenient tool for a useless article.

We are all apprised of the violence and abuse of the New-York American—the organ of the administration in this state, managed by the aristocratic family of Kings. We speak not of the many thousand dollars lavished on this family, so dearly cherished by the elder and younger Adams; but we cannot view without an expression of our astonishment the conduct of one of this family (John A. King), a conspicuous manager in the coalition conventions of this state, in "raising the standard of the administration," while his pockets are filled with the plunder of the treasury—we say the plunder of the treasury, because a committee of congress have declared that the payment to him of nearly the whole of \$1500 by the sanction of the President and Mr. Clay, was "a manifest breach of law"—and they have recommended that the attorney general be directed to institute legal proceedings for its recovery.

This distribution of patronage, with the view of acquiring the same controul over the press under the administration of the son, that was given to the father by the sedition law, it should be recollected, is no part of the legitimate patronage arising from the business of printing.

The abuses of that which is legitimate have been so enormous under the Coalition, as to excite the justest alarm. The moneys paid for newspapers, not including advertising or other printing in the departments of state, war, navy and treasury, during the three years of this administration, amount to the extravagant sum of \$6,199 63; and the printing for these departments and the general post office, to more than \$70,000.

We cannot express our apprehensions upon this subject more pertinently, than by using the language of the committee of congress, who exposed these thriftless expenditures by the Coalition. "By the employment of the expenditures of the contingent funds of the departments, a government press to all intents and purposes is established, as much as if there were an annual item in the appropriation bill for the purpose of purchasing the joint and harmonious action of one hundred presses, in the uncompromising vindication of those in power, and in the unsparing abuse of those who are not. The danger which assails the freedom of the press through the insinuation of this species of influence, is far more serious than any *star chamber* code of pains and penalties; for in the latter case, the pride of man, which revolts at oppression, ensures in the end a triumphant resistance; but in the former, the very weakness of his nature invites a subjugation of his independence."

If the pernicious influence exercised by the administration through the distribution of official patronage, was confined to a controul over the press, our just cause

for the most serious apprehensions would be far less than it now is.

Drawing his rules of human conduct from reflections upon his own moral principles, or from observations upon the venal crowd that surrounds him, Mr. Clay has remarked, that "*Perhaps all power is resolvable into that of the purse, for with it you may command almost every thing else.*" Cherishing the same false notion of the general profligacy of the people, he said to Gen. Floyd, "*Give us patronage, and we will make ourselves popular.*" Patronage has been given to the Coalition—or rather, they have obtained it by bargain and intrigue. They have had the power of the purse, and it has not remained in their hands an unemployed treasure. The multiplication of diplomatic agents and the needless employment of messengers—a practice began under the elder Adams, and discontinued and condemned by Jefferson—has been revived by the younger Adams, and increased beyond the censured example of his father. A few months services, in some instances, have been rewarded with splendid outfits and years of salary. New presses have been called into existence in every part of the union, to check public sentiment, and write down the candidates of the people. Hiring libellers, quartered upon the contingent funds, have fabricated unnumbered slanders, and vagabond messengers have carried them into every town and hamlet in the United States; and yet the administration have not made themselves popular. Although the Jupiter of the Coalition has sent down his shower of gold, he has not overcome the virtue of the people.—They have seen, and felt, and abhorred, this "*Reign of Corruption*;" they are now calling, in the indignant voice of an injured and insulted nation, upon their faithless public servants to render their account of *wasted millions*.

When the people see, as we think they must do, a deliberate attempt on the part of the present administration to undermine their rights by secret corruption, and to purchase the continuance of power against the efforts of the people, by the profligate expenditure of the people's money, they will not fail, we trust, to put forth as strong an arm for their protection as did the patriots of 1800, by whom the country was rescued from "*the Reign of Terror.*"

The similarity between the administration of the first and second Adams, so evident in regard to the freedom of opinion and the independence of the press, is not less observable in relation to those principles that gave rise to the old federal alien law. It was natural that those who had felt tyranny in their native land, and fled here for protection from it, should be zealous to prevent its establishment in the country of their adoption. Our naturalized citizens of course became early objects of suspicion and hostility to the partizans of the Coalition. Immediately after the last election, they were the subject of illiberal remarks and vulgar abuse in the administration prints.*

To leave no doubt that the administration participated in those hostile feelings towards emigrants settled in our country, the secretary of the navy has recommended "that foreign seamen, although naturalized, be as rapidly excluded from our navy as possible," and has given orders that none should be recruited "except as a matter of necessity." "*It would be fortunate in every respect,*" he exclaims, "*if not one man floated upon an American bottom, either mercantile or military, who did not claim American soil as his birth place.*" The same principle and the same causes which have induced this cabinet minister of the administration to exclude from public ships our naturalized citizens, and to regard it as a consummation devoutly to be wished, that no foreigner should float upon an American bottom,

* This disposition has been manifested in many ways. It was said by the friends of John Q. Adams, that the elections in the cities of Albany and New-York, (which resulted so unpropitiously for his cause) "*were consummated by home bred villains and foreign renegades.*" And the partizans of Mr. Adams described, in a public sentiment, the "*Jackson party*" as being composed of "*disappointed desperadoes of America, and runaway filthy Irishmen.*"—[Editor.]

would exclude these citizens from our military service, from our workshops, from our counting houses, from our farms, from our courts, and even from the pulpit. This would be carrying hostility and persecution of those who had fled to this country, "the boasted asylum from oppression," and made it their home, far beyond the rigor of the old alien law.

Why are foreigners, and particularly those who have acquired full rights of citizenship under our laws, deemed by the Coalition unworthy to float upon an American bottom? Are they, as the N. Y. American, a leading administration journal, characterizes them, "loose, floating, unattached adventurers, who take any service and fight for any flag that pays them highest"? We believe this ungenerous conduct of our government, and these disgraceful reproaches from the friends of the Coalition, are wholly unwarranted. Have those foreigners who have enlisted in our army or navy, ever disgraced our flag by cowardice! Has any victory ever crowned our arms, which has not been purchased by the commingled blood of our naturalized and native citizens?

Having established, as we think, in a satisfactory manner, that the principles of the present administration of the general government, and the conduct of its partisans, are in many instances identical, and in all others very similar, to the federal administration of 1798, it is reasonable to expect that those who were the supporters of the first Adams, and whose principles have suffered no change, should now be the supporters of the second Adams; and that those who opposed the "Reign of Terror," and whose principles have also undergone no change, should be now the opposers of the "Reign of Corruption." Facts, we believe, correspond with this reasonable expectation. There have been, however, both backsliders from, and proselytes to, the republican cause. Those who have left the republican party and united their political destinies with the old federal party, did not carry with them republican principles, and have not therefore obliterated in the smallest degree, the distinction between these two parties. All that were federalists have not remained so. The reasonableness and the excellence of the political doctrines of the school of Jefferson, made many converts, before they were reduced to practice under the administration of this republican patriarch and his two immediate successors. During these administrations, converts were still more numerous, but these conversions did not in the least change or confound the distinctive character of the old parties. There are a few cases, and some of them of no ordinary importance, where the professed converts to the republican cause did not renounce, but temporarily disguised, their old faith. The cause that was espoused by them was betrayed, and that which was abandoned has been advanced. This hypocrisy has been the occasion of some confusion, and made it necessary to look beyond mere names and professions, and have regard to the principles of certain politicians, in order to ascertain the party to which they belong. Those who approved the measures of the elder Adams were federalists, and were proud of that appellation, and those who approve similar measures under the younger Adams are certainly not the less federalists because they wish to assume the honored name, while they war against the principles of republicans.

An immense body of facts might be adduced to show the identity of the views and principles of the supporters of John Adams and the supporters of his son. Indeed in many thousand instances, they are the same unchanged and unchangeable individuals. EVERY MEMBER OF THE HARTFORD CONVENTION WAS A SUPPORTER OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF JOHN ADAMS, AND EVERY MEMBER OF THAT BODY NOW ALIVE IS A DEVOTED PARTISAN OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF HIS SON JOHN QUINCY ADAMS. It is also a fact, we believe, which is equally remarkable and equally indicative of the anti-republican character of the present administration, that it has for its supporters EVERY MEMBER OF OUR STATE CONVENTION, WHO VOTED FOR THE FREEHOLD QUALIFICATION OF SENATORIAL VOTERS—

a proposition so monstrously aristocratic, that its adoption would have partially disfranchised nearly ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND FREEMEN in this state. What claims to a republican character can that administration have whose measures have commanded the approbation and secured the support of the whole body of Hartford Conventionists! What pretensions can it have to be the guardian of the free principles of our constitution, while it pursues a policy entirely congenial with the sentiments of those proud aristocrats, who boldly demand a monopoly of legislation because they have been blessed with more wealth than falls to the common lot of men!

Nothing perhaps could more clearly illustrate to the citizens of this county the distinctive principles of the two parties, than the candidates they have respectively nominated for their elector—the late Lieut. Gov. JOHN TAYLER and the honourable ABRAHAM VAN VECHTEN.

They are venerable men, of great purity of character, and most eminent moral worth. The electors of this county can have no other ground of choice between them, than what arises from the difference in their political principles. This difference is too well known to be denied and too broad to be confounded.

Mr. Van Vechten was a federalist of the old school, and he has remained so, unchanged in name and faith, to the present day. While many of his associates, in the days of the adverse fortune of their party, sought to disguise their true political character by the assumption of popular names, he has despised these mean artifices, gloried in the appellation of a federalist, and fearlessly maintained his ancient principles. Mr. Van Vechten was a champion of the administration of old John Adams, and in support of it, he arrayed himself against governor George Clinton, general Gates, John Tayler, Henry Rutgers, general James Clinton, general Floyd, and many other distinguished men of the revolution. When that administration had encroached upon the rights of the states and the people—when it had passed the alien and sedition laws—when it had filled our jails with the victims of its displeasure, it was still the object of Mr. Van Vechten's warm attachment, and commanded his vigorous support. He resisted all the efforts of the republican party, with Jefferson at its head, and in the contest of 1800, we find him giving his vote for the electors favourable to John Adams and against those favourable to Thomas Jefferson. Thus we see that the administration of the elder Adams, odious as it was by its many acts against the principles of the republican party, was still the object of his parental fondness & solicitude during the whole period of its existence. "He sat by its cradle—he followed its hearth." Mr. Van Vechten's zeal for the federal cause, and opposition to republicans, was ardent and untiring. In 1808, we find him again in the legislature voting for the federal electors, and against those of the republican party.

From 1803 to the late war—a period of unexampled commercial difficulties—and during all that war, when the federalists were flattered with the hope of regaining lost power, he was active and unwavering in his opposition to the republican administration of president Madison. The federalists had not in all their ranks a champion in whom they placed greater confidence, and from whom they received greater aid, and the republicans had no opponent more powerful to contend with. As a member of our legislature, he opposed every expression of confidence by that body in the patriotism and purity of our public agents in the general government, or in the correctness of their policy and the wisdom of their measures. These expressions of confidence, emanating from so respectable a source as the legislature of the great and powerful state of New York, were of vital importance to the country, assailed by a foreign foe and rent by domestic faction.

Mr. Van Vechten's course in the convention for revising our constitution, affords the clearest evidence of his political principles, and no doubt can rest upon the mind of those who examine it, that his predilections for

the high toned doctrines of the old federal school had increased with his years.

While the efforts of the republican party have been to enlarge the rights and privileges of the people, those of the federalists have ever been for restricting them. Mr. Van Vechten, true to the principles of his party, opposed, while in the convention, the extension of the *elective franchise*.

He voted against extending the right of suffrage to those who were assessed and performed labour on the highways.

He voted against giving that right to those who do militia duty. Deeply imbued with aristocracy must that mind be, which can reconcile it to the eternal principles of justice to withhold the full right of freemen from those who bear burdens to support government; upon whom is cast the defence of our lives and property when invaded by a foreign power, and the enforcement of the laws when resisted by insurrection and rebellion; and who, in the performance of these duties, are often called upon to shed their blood and lay down their lives.

Mr. Van Vechten gave his sanction to a still more objectionable proposition—a proposition to exclude all those who do not possess an unincumbered real estate worth \$250 from voting for members of the senate. It is admitted that the practical operation of the provision would have deprived, in our large cities, more than two-thirds of the citizens—including among them some of the most respectable, and even the most wealthy—from all participation in the choice of an entire branch of the legislature. In enforcing this proposition, so much at war with equality of rights—the basis of republican governments—he asserts that *“the owners of property have rights, which in relation to those who are destitute, are separate and exclusive.”* Proceeding upon this principle, that the adventitious circumstance of possessing property gives *separate and exclusive rights*, it is no longer a matter of surprise that he should have been led to embrace all the aristocratic measures of the old federal party, and to defend with all the ability for which he is so much celebrated, all the assumptions of power which have been claimed under the administrations of the *elder and younger Adams*. It is this principle of property conferring separate and exclusive rights, which in feudal times made the distinction between the *lord* and his *vassals*—in modern times makes that between the monarch and his subjects, giving absolute power to one, and imposing passive obedience as a duty on the other. It has destroyed equal liberty in all other republics but ours, and if the reign of *John Adams* had continued, it would have destroyed it here. Without enlarging upon its dangerous tendency, we address this inquiry to the thousands whose dearest rights have been menaced by its assertion; “Will you give your votes to those who would have deprived you of the very right of voting, and against those who secured this right to you? Will you give your support to an administration which by its aristocratic principles has secured the attachment of all those who in this land of freedom would have withheld from you the most valued right of freemen?”

Mr. Van Vechten steadily and perseveringly resisted the introduction of these free principles into the new

constitution, and when they were placed there by republicans, *he recorded his vote against that constitution.*

Such are the principles of Mr. Van Vechten, the federal elector nominated by the partisans of John Quincy Adams in opposition to Gen. Jackson. While we feel a respect for the consistency of his political conduct, we can not but lament his erroneous principles. We have freely questioned, as we have an undoubted right to do, while he stands before the people for their suffrages, the soundness of his political faith; but we have done this without intending to impeach the purity of his heart, or derogate from the respect due to him as a worthy citizen.

We now turn to one, whose great moral worth may fearlessly challenge a comparison with that of Mr. Van Vechten, and in whose political principles we find nothing to condemn and much to admire. We allude to JOHN TAYLER, late lieutenant-governor of this state, whom we now present to you as an elector in favour of Andrew Jackson.

John Tayler was a whig of the revolution; a patriot in 1798; and has ever been a firm and consistent republican.

In 1776, he was a delegate to the provincial congress. In 1777 a conspicuous member of the Committee of Safety, a body of fearless patriots, who at the risk of their lives exercised the executive powers wrested from the colonial government, until the adoption of our first state constitution. He was a member of the convention that framed that instrument. He was the friend and confidant of Washington,—the firm and untiring supporter of the republican administrations of Jefferson, Madison and Monroe. No man saw more clearly, or lamented more sincerely, the errors of the administration of the elder Adams; and we venture to say no man put forth a stronger arm for its prostration.

Of his more recent efforts in the cause of the republican party it is scarcely necessary to speak. They are well known and highly appreciated by the grateful community in which he lives. The same love of liberty which led lieutenant-gov. Tayler to embark early and zealously in the revolution, and to stake life and fortune upon its success—which made him condemn and oppose the mad misrule of the country by *John Adams*,—now induces him, descended as he is into the vale of years, to allow the republicans of this county the free use of his name for a presidential elector in their present struggle to prostrate the equally aristocratic and more corrupt misrule of *John Quincy Adams*.

We submit, fellow citizens, to your serious examination the political character of the two presidential electors; and ask your choice between the man who has adopted and practised upon through life the high-toned aristocratic doctrines of the old federal school; and the whig of the revolution and republican of '93—between the supporter of the administration of John Adams, with its alien and sedition laws, its multiplied diplomatic agencies and standing armies, its ridiculous pomp and wasteful profusion of the public treasures; and the supporter of the administration of Jefferson, with its scrupulous regard for the people's rights, its republican simplicity, and rigid economy—between the stern and consistent federalist, ABRAHAM VAN VECHTEN; and the firm and inflexible republican, JOHN TAYLER.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 011 895 448 8

